

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ACDA-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /101 W  
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P 261827Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1012  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
DIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, CH, UR  
SUBJECT: PONOMAREV CITES PRC THREAT TO JUSTIFY SOVIET MILITARY FORCE

1. THE SPEECH OF SOVIET CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER B.N. PONOMAREV TO THE HELSINKI ARMS CONTROL FORUM OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL APRIL 25 IS MOST NOTABLE FOR ITS STRONG ATTACK ON CHINA AND ITS CITATION OF PRC'S HOSTILE POLICIES AS JUSTIFICATION FOR SIZE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND THE EVALUATION OF THE VISIT TO MOSCOW OF SECRETARY VANCE, PONOMAREV FOLLOWS THE LINE LAID DOWN BY BREZHNEV IN HIS KOMSOMOL SPEECH AND ADDS THAT THE ENERGETIC EFFORTS OF "BOTH SIDES" WILL BE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING ISSUES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF NATO, MBFR AND THE US ARE STANDARD AS IS HIS LINE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN FORCED INTO ADDITIONAL DEFENSE EXPENDITURES BY THE MILITARY ADVANCES OF THE WEST OVER THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY.
2. MUCH OF WHAT PONOMAREV HAS TO SAY ABOUT CHINA AND ITS DISARMAMENT POLICIES ARE NOT NEW TO THOSE WHO HAVE TALKED TO THE SOVIETS IN PRIVATE. HOWEVER, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN OUR RECOLLECTION THAT A MEMBER OF THE RULING POLITBURO (ALBEIT CANDIDATE MEMBER) HAS OUTLINED IN SUCH DETAIL IN PUBLIC AND SO FORCEFULLY THIS SOVIET COMPLAINT AGAINST THE PRC AND USED IT TO JUSTIFY THE SIZE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.
3. PONOMAREV HAS THREE BASIC CHARGES AGAINST THE PRC WHICH HE CITES TO EXPLAIN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SOVIET MILITARY EFFORT: A) THE "MILITARIZATION" OF THE COUNTRY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE PRESENT REGIME; B) THE "TERRITORIAL PRETENSIONS" OF THE PRC WHICH ONLY HEIGHTEN THE DANGER CAUSED BY THE MILITARIZATION; AND C) THE PRC ATTEMPTS TO "TORPEDO" ANY INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS DIRECTED AT RESTRAINING THE ARMS RACE, GIVING AS AN EXAMPLE CHINESE REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CTB TALKS. HE STATES THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE HEARD STATEMENTS BY OTHERS THAT THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES ARE "TOO LARGE" FOR PURELY "DEFENSIVE OBJECTIVES". BUT, HE ARGUES, THE AUTHORS OF SUCH STATEMENTS IGNORE THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET BORDERS ARE "FAR FROM BEING SURROUNDED BY STATES FRIENDLY TO THE SOVIET UNION" AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION MUST INSURE ITS SECURITY "NOT ONLY IN THE EUROPEAN BUT ALSO IN THE ASIATIC PART OF THE COUNTRY."

4. PONOMAREV'S REMARKS ON CHINA SERVE BOTH AS AN ATTACK ON THE PRC AND ITS POLICIES, AND AS JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SOVIET MILITARY FORCE TO THOSE ABROAD WHO CLAIM THAT THERE IS A DANGEROUS "SOVIET THREAT." IT IS IN TERMS OF THE LATTER THAT IT IS SIGNIFICANT PARTICULARLY AS APPLIES TO PUBLIC SOVIET ARGUMENTATION ON SALT AND A WIDE SPECTRUM OF OTHER ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. IN THIS REGARD HIS REMARKS STRIKE US AS REFLECTING SOVIET CONCERN THAT HIGH LEVEL PRONOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLICITY ON IMBALANCES

OF WARSAW PACT VS. STRATEGIC NATO AND EUROPEAN THEATER  
FORCES ARE BEGINNING TO JUSTIFICATION FOR  
THE SOVIET MILITARY FORCE TO THOSE ABROAD WHO CLAIM THAT  
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FORCES ARE BEGINNING TO INFLUENCE IMPORTANT WESTERN--  
AND OTHER--AUDIENCES. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, ARMED FORCES, SPEECHES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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